



**National Science Foundation
Directorate for Biological Sciences
Office of Assistant Director**

Young Investigator Awards in Plant Genome Research

Dear Colleague:

The Directorate for Biological Sciences would like to announce an additional funding opportunity for young investigators. The "Young Investigator Awards in Plant Genome Research" (YIA-PGR) is an addendum to the NSF Program Solicitation, NSF 01-158, Plant Genome Research Program (PGRP) (<http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?nsf01158>).

The YIA-PGR seeks to increase the participation of young scientists in plant genome research, especially those researchers who are at institutions that have not participated in PGRP in the past. Investigators trained in genomics of non-plant systems, informatics, and other disciplines that are critical to advancing the field of plant genome research, are also encouraged to apply.

The advent of genomics has opened up new ways of doing research that are different from the one-gene-at-a-time approach. The PGRP has supported the development of research resources (e.g., ESTs, BAC libraries, tagged mutant collections) and tools (e.g., expression study technologies, databases, informatics tools) for the past 4 years. These are available to individual investigators located anywhere in the U.S., and provide means for young investigators to develop a robust plant genome research program.

Research proposals submitted in response to this letter should have a research theme that is consistent with the PGRP as described in the program announcement (NSF 01-158). Briefly restated, the goals of the PGRP are to support research in plant genomics and to accelerate the acquisition and utilization of new knowledge and innovative approaches to elucidate fundamental biological processes in plants. The FY2002 PGRP focuses on functional genomics, the identification of functions of a pathway or a cluster of genes at a genomic scale, and new informatics tools to disseminate, access and analyze massive dispersed datasets. Also encouraged is development of research resources and tools that would enable a broad community of investigators to participate in plant genome research, including new ways to sequence gene-rich regions of plants with large genomes. Emphasis is placed on plants of economic importance and plant processes of potential economic value.

NSF expects that YIA-PGR projects will take full advantage of data, materials, information, expertise, and facilities available through the PGRP funded projects. Whenever appropriate, the applicant should network with existing PGRP-supported activities. (Consult http://www.nsf.gov/bio/dbi/dbi_pgr.htm for a list of PGRP awards.) Funds may be requested to visit existing PGRP laboratories, to participate in training opportunities offered by the existing PGRP projects, or to use genome research facilities not available at the applicant institution. YIA-PGR awardees will be required to attend the annual PGRP awardees meeting in Arlington, Virginia. Funds for this trip must be requested in the proposal.

Proposal preparation: No letters of intent are required. Preparation of the proposal should follow the instructions given in this letter and the NSF Grant Proposal Guide (NSF02-2, <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gpg>). Project description is limited to 15 pages. In addition, issues listed in the "Project Description" section of the PGRP Program Solicitation (NSF01-158,

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2001/nsf01158>), should be addressed where applicable. Plans for sharing data and materials that are products of the proposed project must be included within 15 page project description.

Eligibility: Individuals, who received their Ph.D. on or after January 1, 1997 (no exceptions) and hold independent, non-tenure track or tenure track positions at U.S. institutions eligible to apply to the Plant Genome Research Program, can submit proposals. Collaborative project proposals will be accepted. However, all co-principal investigators must meet above eligibility requirements. Proposals must be submitted through an eligible institution.

Award Information: Awards of up to \$225,000 per year for a single investigator project and up to \$350,000 per year for a collaborative project will be made for a period of up to five years. The Program expects to make approximately 12 awards in FY2002, contingent upon the quality of proposals and the availability of funds. Awards are anticipated by September 30, 2002.

FastLane proposal submission: Full proposals should be submitted through FastLane as described in the NSF-GPG (NSF 02-2). On the Cover Sheet Program Announcement/Solicitation component select NSF 02-048 as the Program Announcement. The Division of Biological Infrastructure (DBI) and Plant Genome Research Program will automatically be assigned as the NSF Unit Consideration. Please note that submission of signed cover pages is no longer required. FastLane questions specific to YIA-PGR can be directed to biofl@nsf.gov <<mailto:biofl@nsf.gov>>.

Proposal deadline: Proposals must be submitted by 5:00 PM local time, May 1, 2002.

Proposal review process and protocol: Proposals will be evaluated using NSF merit review procedures as described in the NSF-GPG (NSF 02-2).

Cognizant Program Officers:

Dr. Jane Silverthorne, Program Director, Division of Biological Infrastructure, telephone: (703) 292-8470, e-mail: dbipgr@nsf.gov.

Dr. Christopher Cullis, Program Director, Division of Biological Infrastructure, telephone: (703) 292-8470, e-mail: dbipgr@nsf.gov.

Investigators are strongly encouraged to contact a Program Director for further guidance prior to submission of their proposal.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Clutter
Assistant Director

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. Grantees are wholly responsible for conducting their project activities and preparing the result for publication. Thus, the Foundation does not assume responsibility for such findings or their interpretation. NSF welcomes proposals on behalf of all qualified scientists, engineers and educators. The Foundation strongly encourages women, minorities and persons with disabilities to participate fully in its programs. In accordance with Federal statutes, regulations and NSF policies, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin or disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from NSF (some programs may have special requirements that limit eligibility). Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities (investigators and other staff, including student research assistants) to work on NSF-supported projects. See the program announcement or contact the program coordinator at (703) 292-5111, FIRS at 1-800-877-8339.

We want all of our communications to be clear and understandable. If you have suggestions on how we can improve this document or other NSF publications, please email us at plainlanguage@nsf.gov.

PRIVACY ACT AND PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENTS

The information requested on proposal forms and project reports is solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. The information on proposal forms will be used in connection with the selection of qualified proposals; project reports submitted by awardees will be used for program evaluation and reporting within the Executive Branch and to Congress. The information requested may be disclosed to qualified reviewers and staff assistants as part of the review process; to applicant institutions/grantees to provide or obtain data regarding the proposal review process, award decisions, or the administration of awards; to government contractors, experts, volunteers and researchers and educators as necessary to complete assigned work; to other government agencies needing information as part of the review process or in order to coordinate programs; and to another Federal agency, court or party in a court or Federal administrative proceeding if the government is a party. Information about Principal Investigators may be added to the Reviewer file and used to select potential candidates to serve as peer reviewers or advisory committee members. See Systems of Records, NSF-50, "Principal Investigator/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 267 (January 5, 1998), and NSF-51, "Reviewer/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 268 (January 5, 1998). Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 120 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed and completing and reviewing

the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Reports Clearance Officer, Information Dissemination Branch, DAS; National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA 22230.

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